



State of Arizona

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Office of the Governor
1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Main Phone: 602-542-4331
Facsimile: 602-542-7601

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CONTACT: Annie Dockendorff
(602) 542-7029
ADockendorff@az.gov

Governor Jan Brewer Celebrates Court Approval of Arnold v. Sarn Stipulation

Arizona has created a model behavioral health system

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today lauded the Maricopa County Superior Court’s approval of the settlement agreement reached earlier this year in the *Arnold v. Sarn* case. The governor was among the speakers at this morning’s fairness hearing. The court’s approval today brings Arizona one step closer to a final resolution to the more than 30-year lawsuit.

“I am pleased Judge Bassett acted so quickly to approve the stipulation, which helps us maintain our momentum implementing a behavioral health system worthy of the people of Arizona,” said Governor Brewer. “The Court’s decision is a true testament to the collaborative and good-faith efforts of the state, plaintiffs and other stakeholders who have worked diligently to bring about this long-awaited accomplishment. I thank those involved for their hard work and commitment, and I commend the Court for its swift support of our mission.”

Under the terms of the stipulation approved by the Court today as fair and reasonable, Arizonans with serious mental illnesses will be provided with real community-based services that allow them to participate in society in a meaningful way, including: crisis services; supported employment and housing services; assertive community treatment; family and peer support; life skills training; and respite care services. Additionally, the stipulation includes metrics, national standards and evidence-based best practices to ensure quality, transparency and accountability in Arizona’s mental health system. The parties expect final dismissal of the litigation later this year.

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